

From the President

Time certainly moves swiftly, as the final Members Meeting of the program season is at the doorstep. I invite you all to Newport News and The Mariners' Museum on Thursday 26 May for a presentation by Emily Williams, Archaeological Conservator at Colonial Williamsburg. Emily will speak about her conservation experiences working at an Early Bronze Age excavation dating c. 2500-2200 BCE, located at Tell Umm El-Marra, Syria.

The May Members Meeting is especially important, as is the case each year, because it is on this occasion that the annual election of the Board of Directors occurs. The Nominating Committee has put together a fine slate of candidates for office. It includes some new names as well as the current officers and committee chairs eligible for re-election who have offered to continue service on the Board. Please be sure to demonstrate your interest, enthusiasm and support for the VCA by being present at the meeting and casting your vote. If you are unable to attend please submit your vote by mail as instructed on the ballot form, which you should have received via email or post by this time.

The 2010 – 2011 VCA season was fortunate to have one highlight event followed by another throughout the program year. Our member meetings gathered us at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg, in Richmond at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Department of Historic Resources, and back east at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, for various enjoyable and interesting programs. Preservation Virginia again was very gracious to host the December Holiday Party at one of its lovely historic properties in Richmond. Many of the membership made the journey to Raleigh for the spring field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art, some bringing family and friends along for the wonderful occasion. The VCA is very thankful to each of these institutions for the conviviality and generosity shown in opening their doors to our organization.

In March of this year The Virginia Association of Museums' annual meeting once more included a

VCA Members' Meeting & Annual Elections Thursday, May 26th, 5:30 p.m.



Theodor DeBry, Anglorum in Virginiam Aduentus, from Admiranda Narratio, 1590. The Mariners' Museum Library Rare Book Collection. Photograph: Courtesy of The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, VA.

THE MARINERS' MUSEUM
100 MUSEUM DRIVE, NEWPORT NEWS, VA



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 3

presentation by VCA representatives. Valinda Carroll, Tom Snyder and I spoke to VAM meeting participants and described some simple, practical measures that could be used towards care of collections. Another special event that occurred this season was the Fundraising for Preservation and Conservation workshop, held in April at Maymont House. That program was produced by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, and co-sponsored by both the VCA and VAM.

Though our organization usually takes a programming hiatus from June through August, please be reminded that there are other conservation events to take advantage of this summer. The Hennage Auditorium Conservation Lecture Series at the DeWitt Wallace Museum continues with new presentations in June, July and August by members of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation conservation staff. VCA members are allowed free admission to all the lectures as a courtesy of the museum, so go and enjoy these programs. (see pages 5-6)

All in all the VCA has enjoyed another banner year. Events for next season already are being considered and planned. All members are encouraged to contact the Board with any ideas for future meetings and meeting sites, workshops and other various events.

I hope to see you all at the May meeting. Thank you very much.

~ Frederick Wallace, President

• 2011 VCA •
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
MAY 26TH, 2011
VCA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR
POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

President - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. Frederick Wallace, current VCA President, standing for re-election.

Vice President - one year initial term; two year subsequent term. Heather Logue, current Vice President, standing for re-election.

Secretary - one year initial term; two year subsequent term. Chris Wilkins, current VCA Secretary, standing for re-election.

Membership Co-Chair - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Bienvenida Ochs, outgoing). Current Co-Chair Alfred "Larry" Ochs standing for re-election.

Elsa Sangouard, running for election to the open position.

Outreach Chair - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Dale Wheary, outgoing). Will Hoffman running for election.

Program Co-Chair - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Tom Snyder, outgoing). Suzanne Collins running for election.

Publications Co-Chair - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Russell Bernabo, outgoing) Current Co-Chair Tracy Bernabo standing for re-election. Charles Phillips running for election.

Bylaws Chair - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (James Robertson, outgoing); Mark Lewis running for Election

**Absentee Ballot for 2011
VCA Elections
Included on Back Page
of this Newsletter**

**The election will be held at the
May 26th, 2011 Members Meeting.
If you are unable to vote in person
at the upcoming meeting an absentee
ballot is included in this Newsletter.**

**Please send absentee ballots by
May 25, 2011 to:**

valinda.carroll@hamptonu.edu

or

VCA Nominating Committee
PO Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220



VCA MEMBER'S MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 2011, 5:30 P.M.

**Presentation on the Excavation of
Tell Umm el-Marra, Syria**
Emily Williams, Archaeological Conservator

Please join your fellow VCA members on Thursday May 26th at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News to hear Emily Williams of Colonial Williamsburg talk about her experiences as an archaeological conservator at Tell Umm el-Marra in Syria, an excavation co-sponsored by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Amsterdam. An Early Bronze Age site dating to about 2500-2200 BCE, the site features a necropolis with 10 tombs. Emily will discuss conservation in the field as well as in an on-site laboratory. The program will take place in the Monitor Center's classroom located on the second floor. To reach the classroom, use the elevator that is mid-way down the Monitor Center hallway. The meeting will begin with a reception featuring light refreshments at 5:30 p.m. in the Monitor Center classroom followed by our Annual Elections and the evening's program. Come and enjoy!

Right and below: Views of the excavation site at Tell Umm el-Marra in Syria.



Directions to the Mariners' Museum:

From the North and West

- Take I-95 South.
- Take I-295 Bypass around Richmond.
- Take I-64 East towards Williamsburg.
- Take exit 258-A.
- Travel 2.5 miles to the intersection of Warwick Boulevard and J. Clyde Morris Boulevard (Avenue of the Arts). Continue straight through the intersection and take your first left onto Museum Drive. The Museum entrance is directly ahead.

From the South and East



- Take I-64 West.
- Take exit 258-A.
- Travel 2.5 miles to the intersection of Warwick Boulevard and J. Clyde Morris Boulevard (Avenue of the Arts). Continue straight through the intersection and turn left onto Museum Drive. The Museum entrance is directly ahead.



VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes
April 19th, 2011

ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE
HEATHER LOGUE
PATRICIA SELINGER
BIENVENIDA OCHS
LARRY OCHS
SHEILA PAYAQUI
CHRIS WILKINS
COLLEEN CALLAHAN

The VCA Board met on April 19, 2011 at VCU's James Branch Cabell Library. Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked Patricia Selinger (VCA Webmaster) for acquiring the meeting space for the meeting.

Fred announced that VCA elections would be held at the members meeting in May. The nominating committee has informed the board that certain VCA members have expressed interest or have been nominated to be a candidate for the positions that need to be filled. These include Mark Lewis for the Bylaws Chair, Elsa Sangouard for Membership Co-Chair, Charles Phillips for Publications Co-Chair, and Suzanne Collins for Programs Co-Chair. The nominating committee will continue to look for at least one candidate for the positions of Outreach Chair and possibly Vice-President.

There was a short discussion about having the Vice President position roll over to the position of president. Fred stated that this would affect the bylaws, the vice president office description and some of the duties of the president. This would require the person accepting the position of Vice-President to also accept later advancement to the position of President. Fred suggested that this proposal be brought to the members attention and voted on at a future meeting.

The Center for Conservation of Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) Fundraising for Conservation Workshop deadline has been extended and registration will be accepted through the week of April 18th.

Fred stated that the VCA budget needs to be prepared and ready for presentation to the membership at the May meeting. Those board positions that have a line-item need to review this years budget to determine what will be needed for the upcoming year. Fred will propose that a line-item be added to allow the VCA to pay for the one-day registration fees of three VCA representatives to attend the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) annual meeting. Caitlin O'Grady

(VCA Treasurer) and Fred Wallace will be available for help on these matters if needed. Deadline for addenda will be the 26th of April. Caitlin will compile all requests and present it to the board who will prepare it for ratification at the May meeting. A full budget report will be presented in the September newsletter.

Fred stated that the VCA Conservation Services Directory will be presented to the website provider in the form of email addresses. Larry Ochs (VCA Membership Co-Chair) informed the board that information for interested members has been isolated and is ready to be sent to Patricia. The directory will consist of a listing of conservators who are willing to be contacted by the general public. People can choose to be listed when joining the VCA, renewing their membership or by contacting the VCA through the website. Patricia discussed with the board on how to protect the information from spam-bots. Fred stated that interested members should be contacted to decide what part of their membership information that they would like to include/exclude from the directory.

Fred announced that the VCA was contacted by an AIC subgroup known as the Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN). The ECPN was setup as a support group for those new to the conservation profession. Part of this support is in the form of a mentoring program that serves to connect those new to the profession with middle and upper level conservation professionals. The VCA board has been asked to determine the level of interest in the mentoring program among the VCA membership. This will be introduced at the September membership meeting. The ECPN has a running blog and is profiling various regional conservation groups. The VCA was recently profiled.

Fred announced that the May membership meeting will start at 5:30 pm on the 26th of May at the Mariner's Museum and will feature Emily Williams (Colonial Williamsburg) speaking about her archaeological conservation experiences in Syria. Board elections will also take place during this meeting.

Colleen Callahan (Programs Co-Chair) stated that the recent field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) was a general success. There was a very good turnout including several students from East Carolina University. Bill Brown and Perry Hurt provided a great tour of the lab and exhibit spaces. However, the VCA was not able to fill all of the seats on the bus. As a result part of the trip was paid for out of VCA funds. Fred stated that money is set aside in the budget to

subsidize trips like these. He suggested that future events require money up front.

Fred stated that Chris Swan and Suzanne Collins have expressed an interest in presenting a decorative painting workshop to the VCA. The VCA may be able to provide funds for supplies.

Shiela Payaqui (Education Chair) announced that there is no update on a potential art cleaning workshop that will be presented by Chris Stavroudis.

The board suggests that new members joining the VCA between May and July will have their membership covered for the remainder of the current year as well as the following year. This will be presented to the membership for a vote. The bylaws will be changed accordingly if accepted.

Fred was asked by Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen (Refreshments Co-Chairs) for help during the May meeting. In addition, they requested that interested people provide their names for a volunteer list which will be called upon at future meetings. Fred proposed that members located in the vicinity of future meetings be asked to help with the committee for that meeting. Announcements could be sent by email or placed on the Facebook page.

Fred announced that he will act as interim Disaster Response Chair while Kathy Garrett-Cox is on maternity leave.

~ Chris Wilkins, Secretary

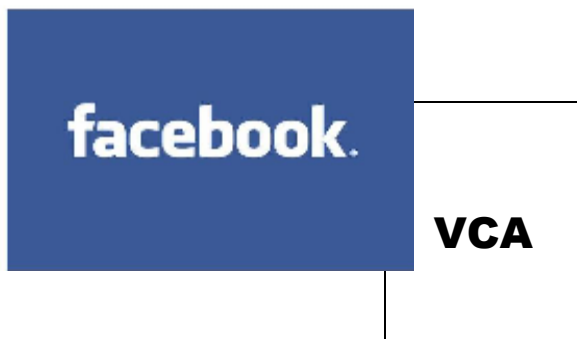
CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES AT THE DEWITT WALLACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM



The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Colonial Williamsburg invites you to join them each month as a conservator shares details of how objects in the Colonial Williamsburg collection are cared for and preserved. The first set of 2011 lectures have passed, but mark your calendars now for the upcoming lectures listed on the next page. All lectures will be presented at 5:30 p.m. in the Hennage Auditorium. The museum generously will allow free admission to the lectures for VCA members throughout the series. Simply state that you are a VCA member upon entering Hennage Auditorium and the charge for the program will be waived. A Colonial Williamsburg Admissions Ticket, a Museum Pass, or a Good Neighbor Card also provides access for the public. For more information visit the web at:

http://www.history.org/history/museums/dewitt_gallery_lectures.cfm

Programs and exhibitions at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum are supported by the DeWitt Wallace Endowment Fund.



Visit us online at
www.virginiaconservationassociation.org

Or on Facebook!
[Virginia-Conservation-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Conservation-Association)

June 16, 2011

Emily Williams, Conservator of Archaeological Materials

Stories in Stone: the excavation and conservation of two 19th century tombstones: In 2004, the Foundation excavated the tombstones of a manumitted slave and her father in the Merchant's square area. This lecture will discuss the excavation and subsequent conservation of these tombstones.

July 21, 2011

Shelley Svoboda, Conservator of Paintings

Revealing Surfaces – Conserving a Southern Painted Room: Shelley Svoboda will discuss the history, ongoing conservation treatment and current research on this rare and beautiful painted room from 1836. Behind-the-scenes images will give insight into the complex treatment.

August 18, 2011

John Watson, Conservator of Instruments and Mechanical Arts & Associate Curator of Musical Instruments

Conservation and the Paradox of Restoration: How can one approach restoration so it preserves the historical record inscribed in old surfaces? The program explores conservation approaches to restoration that recognize the existence, value and vulnerability of historical evidence. By using new, less intrusive restoration methods conservators seek to preserve not just the beauty or function of old things, but the record of history within them.

September 15, 2011

Leroy Graves, Conservator of Upholstery

Reading the Evidence: 18th-century Upholstered Chairs: Leroy Graves shares some of the insights he has gathered from his many years of analyzing, deciphering, and treating 18th century upholstered furniture.

October 13, 2011

Chris Swan, Conservator of Furniture

Revealing Color in Early American Common Furniture: This presentation challenges our assumptions of what early furniture in America looked like. Contrary to popular belief, conservators and analysts continue to find evidence of a brightly colored Colonial world often heavily obscured by the patina of age, overwrought restorations and historically revived re-interpretation.

VCA FIELD TRIP TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART

By Colleen Callahan, Programs Co-Chair



At 8:00 am on April 15th, seven intrepid VCA members left Richmond in our small Groom Transportation bus to go to Williamsburg to pick up four more equally intrepid VCA members on the first stage of our trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC. It was a beautiful, sunny early spring day and the trip down to Raleigh went smoothly. Once there, everyone quickly ate the lunches we had packed and at 1:45 met up with Chief Conservator, Bill Brown. The bus group was joined by about ten Virginia VCA members who had driven down on their own, Jan Hessling, a VCA member from NC who used to work at the museum, and Susanne Grieve, another North Carolina VCA member who teaches at East Carolina University. Susanne brought nine conservation and museum studies students with her so that the full group attending the program totaled over thirty people.

Bill brought us into the conservation laboratory, introduced us to Assistant Conservator, Perry Hurt, and gave us a detailed tour of the lab. A number of projects on which the staff is currently working were displayed around the room and Bill discussed the issues with these works and the conservation facilities at the museum. I know everyone was most impressed with the lab and the work that Bill and his staff are doing there. As a clothing historian and conservator, I particularly liked seeing one of the paintings being cleaned—a very stylish guy from the early 17th century in a great black outfit with fashionable slashing.

Next we walked through the tunnel connecting the older museum building to the spectacular new building that opened just a year ago. When we went into the galleries, Bill began a most instructive discussion about

the move to the new building and the challenges that he and his staff had to deal with (and are still dealing with). There were many questions from the attendees, who I am sure are glad to know that Bill is a resource should they ever confront similar concerns should they be lucky (?) enough to be involved in new construction.

Perry Hurt then led us to the large wall mounted sculpture, *Lines that Link Humanity*, by artist, El Anatsui. Perry discussed his inventive solutions in stabilizing and mounting this intricate work for display—if you check out the NCMA website you can see a slide show of this process. After Perry’s talk, we had an hour left before the bus departure time of 5:00 pm and were free to wander through the galleries at our own pace.

Armed with boxed meals from the museum’s cafe for supper, those of us traveling on the bus made the trip back to Williamsburg and Richmond. The long bus round trip had an unexpected bonus—it proved a fun way to get to know fellow VCA members better. For example, I chatted at length with Varia Degtarenko who is interested in pursuing a career in textile and clothing conservation. Based on the snatches of other lively discussions I heard, the other passengers seemed to be enjoying themselves, too. And without the bus trip, I would not have connected with Varia, who has volunteered to assist me with projects over the summer! This was a very successful field trip and I encourage any VCA members going to the Raleigh area to be sure and visit the North Carolina Museum of Art.



Above and Below: Assistant Conservator Perry Hurt standing in front of El Anatsui's work; Below Left: Bill Brown in the Conservation Lab.





Above: the NCMA conservation lab space with Chief Conservator, Bill Brown (in the green) talking to the group;

Below: VCA members with Perry Hurt in the spectacular new gallery.



VCA MEMBERS' MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2011

DHR & VMFA ~ BUSINESS MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Fred Wallace (President) thanked Caitlin O'Grady (Treasurer) and Dee DeRoche for hosting the VCA members meeting. Mary Andrews and Sandy Jensen (Refreshments Co-Chair) were thanked for providing refreshments. Fred welcomed attendees and new members to the VCA meeting.

Fred announced that Valinda Carroll, Melba Myers and Marla Curtiss are the nominating committee for the May elections. Valinda Carroll announced that those interested in a position on the board should contact the nominating committee. The positions that are open for nomination include Program Co-chair, Publication Co-Chair, Outreach Chair, By-Laws Chair and possibly the position of Vice-President. Fred and Valinda reminded the membership that occupied board positions of Membership, Board Secretary and President can still be contested in an election if there are members who wish to run.

A spring field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art is scheduled for April 15. Colleen Callahan (Programs Co-Chair) announced that there will be a 21 person bus available for those who have registered for the bus trip. Registration forms and trip schedules will be sent out immediately. Registration deadline is April 1st. Pick-ups will be in Richmond and Williamsburg. The bus will arrive at the museum around 1:00 p.m. Members are advised to bring their own lunch as service at the museum restaurant may be slow. Chief conservator of the museum, Bill Brown, will provide a tour of the conservation labs and the galleries.

Other conservation staff will also be conducting gallery talks. The schedule allows for personal tours of the galleries lasting up to an hour and a half. Box meals will be available for the return bus trip. Members can indicate whether they want a chicken or vegetarian meal on the registration form. Buses should return to the Richmond/Williamsburg area around 9:00 p.m. A registration form should be completed by members attending the NCMA field-trip even if they decide to drive themselves.

Fred announced that the Fundraising for Conservation Workshop will occur on the 29th of May at Maymont. This all-day workshop will be conducted by the Conservation Center for Arts and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). Registration forms and additional information will be available on the VCA website. The CCAHA website will also provide information. Brochures will be available soon. Dale Wheary (Outreach Chair) or Fred can be contacted for more information.

Fred announced that the deadline for submitted information for the May newsletter is Thursday, April 21. The newsletter will be sent out on 28 April. He also announced that the May meeting will tentatively be held at the Mariners' Museum.

Larry Ochs (Membership Co-Chair) announced that half of the membership elected to have their names listed on the VCA website conservation directory. However, some members used older membership forms and could not designate if they would like to have their names listed. Those members will be given the opportunity to make the designation at the current meeting, or will be contacted at a later date..

After the Business Meeting the group proceeded to the VMFA for a presentation by Andrew Baxter, Scott McKee and James Robertson on the Indian Stone Garden Pavilion.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary

Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



Next VCA Members Meeting & Annual Elections
May 26th, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
The Mariners' Museum
100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA



Absentee Ballot for VCA Board 2011

President	
Frederick Wallace Chief Conservator of Museum Collections, Mariners' Museum	
Write In	
Vice President	
Heather Logue Conservation Technician, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts	
Write In	
Secretary	
Chris Wilkins Archeological Objects Conservator, Colonial Williamsburg	
Write In	
Bylaws Chair	
Mark Lewis Conservator, Chrysler Museum of Art	
Write In	
Membership Co-chair(elect 2)	
Elsa Sangouard Conservator, <i>USS Monitor</i> Conservation Project, Mariners' Museum	
Alfred Lawrence Ochs Administrator	
Write In	
Program Co-chair	
Suzanne Collins Conservation Technician, Restoration Artist, Private Practice	
Write In	
Publications Co-chairs (elect 2)	
Charles A. Phillips Architectural Conservator, Private Practice	
Tracy Bernabo Fine Art Research and Evaluation	
Write In	
Outreach Chair	
Will Hoffman Assistant Conservator, <i>USS Monitor</i> Conservation Project, Mariners' Museum	
Write In	

Note: The election will be held at the May 26th, 2011 Members Meeting. If you are unable to vote in person at the upcoming meeting, please vote absentee by sending your completed absentee ballot by May 25, 2011 to:

valinda.carroll@hamptonu.edu

or

VCA Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220